Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /153 W

-----104225 242059Z /46

PR 241725Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6462

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USMISSION GENEVA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 LONDON 08252

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY USMTN

DEPARTMENT PASS FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD; TREASURY FOR DONALD E. SYVRUD, OASIA

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECON. UK

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS FOR PERIOD MAY 18-24

SUMMARY: THE TWELVE-MONTH INCREASE IN RETAIL PRICES

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FELL TO 7.9 PERCENT IN APRIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, AVERAGE EARNINGS APPEAR TO HAVE RISEN BY OVER 10 PERCENT IN THE TWELVE MONTHS TO MARCH, THE MOST RECENT MONTH FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE. CONSUMER EXPENDITURE IS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO HAVE INCREASED 1.9 PERCENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AND THE OUTPUT BASED ESTIMATE OF GDP BY 1.2 PERCENT. ADULT

UNEMPLOYMENT FELL FROM 5.8 TO 5.7 PERCENT IN MID-MAY. STERLING AND GOVERNMENT SECURITIES MARKETS WERE CALM ON THE WHOLE. STERLING M3 INCREASED BY OVER 16 PERCENT IN THE 1977/78 BANKING YEAR TO SUBSTANTIALLY BREAK OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 9-13 PERCENT TARGET RANGE. END SUMMARY

1. THE RETAIL PRICE INDEX ROSE 1.5 PERCENT IN THE MONTH TO APRIL 18, 1978, AND 7.9 PERCENT OVER THE PRECEEDING YEAR. THE STRONGEST INCREASES IN THE INDEX OVER APRIL WERE 4.1 PERCENT IN "SEASONAL FOOD" AND 5.1 PERCENT IN HOUSING. THE INDEX EXCLUSIVE OF FOOD INCREASED 1.4 PERCENT IN APRIL. THE APRIL RISE WAS THE LARGEST INCREASE OF OVER THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, APRIL OF 1977 HAVING PRODUCED A RATHER LARGE INCREASE AS WELL. THE RECENT PATTERN OF THE RETAIL PRICE INDEX IS:

ALL ITEMS ALL ITEMS EXCEPT SEASONAL INDEX
JAN 15, JAN 15,
1974 IS CHANGEOVER 1974 IS CHANGEOVER
100 1 MO. 12 MOS. 100 1 MO. 6MOS.

JANUARY L89.5 0.6 9.9 L90.2 0.6 3.7
FEB. 190.6 0.6 9.5 191.4 0.6 3.5
MARCH 191.8 0.6 9.1 192.4 0.5 3.3

APRIL 194.6 1.5 7.9 195.0 1.4 4.1
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2. AVERAGE EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES IN ALL INDUSTRIES AND SERVICES IN GREAT BRITAIN ARE PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED TO HAVE RISEN 0.2 PERCENT IN MARCH OR 10.1 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS. THIS SERIES ON AVERAGE EARNINGS WAS INTRODUCED IN JANUARY OF 1976 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT HAS SUFFICIENTLY ADEQUATE EXPERIENCE WITH THE SERIES TO CALCULATE SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS. AN OLDER SERIES, WHOSE COVERAGE IS RESTRICTED TO PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES AND SOME SERVICES, IS SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND PROVISIONALLY INCREASED 1 PERCENT IN MARCH, OR 11.0 PERCENT OVER THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS. AN INDEX OF BASIC WAGE RATES COVERS ONLY NATIONALLY NEGOTIATED RATES OF MANUAL WORKERS. THIS INDEX WAS 14.1 PERCENT HIGHER IN APRIL 1978 THAN A YEAR EARLIER. THE THREE INDICES:

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-----104251 242059Z /46

PR 241725Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6463

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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AVERAGE EARNINGS (NEW SERIES)

INDEX PERCENTAGE
(JANUARY 1976 INCREASE OVER
EQUALS 100) PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

JANUARY 121.5 9.5 FEBRUARY 122.7 10.5 MARCH (PROVISIONAL) 124.8 10.1

AVERAGE EARNINGS (OLDER SERIES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) UNCLASSIFIED

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INDEX

(JANUARY 1970 PERCENTAGE CHANGEOVER EQUALS 100) 1 MONTH 12 MONTHS JANUARY 306.3 0.5 10.2 FEBRUARY 311.2 1.6 11.5 MARCH (PROVISIONAL) 314.2 1.0 11.0

BASIC HOURLY WAGE RATES

INDEX

(JULY 31, 1972 PERCENTAGE INCREASE

EQUALS 100) OVER 12 MONTHS

JANUARY 31 237.9 6.3 FEBRUARY 28 239.2 6.3 MARCH 31 239.5 6.3 APRIL 30 257.9 14.1

3. THE SECOND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF REAL 1978I CONSUMER EXPENDITURE INDICATES A 1.9 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1977IV. THE STRONGEST SECTOR WAS "CARS AND MOTOR-CYCLES" WHERE CONSUMPTION IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE INCREASED 17.9 PERCENT. DATA ON SELECTED COMPONENTS OF CONSUMER EXPENDITURE:

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE AT 1970 PRICES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, MILLIONS OF POUNDS)

1977I 1977IV 1978I (A)

TOTAL 8,758 8,900 9,070

FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO 2,747 2,844 2,878
HOUSING, FUEL AND LIGHT 1,594 1,606 1,638
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR 806 833 850
DURABLE HOUSEHOLD GOODS 478 504 532
CARS AND MOTORCYCLES 313 280 330
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(A) PROVISIONAL

4. THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE RELEASED ITS PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF FIRST QUARTER GDP BASED ON OUTPUT DATA. IT IS 1.2 PERCENT HIGHER THAN ITS 1977IV LEVEL AND 1.3 PERCENT HIGHER THAN ITS 1977I LEVEL. THE ESTIMATE BASED ON OUTPUT DATA IS THE FIRST TO APPEAR, TO BE FOLLOWED BY ESTIMATES BASED ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. THESE ESTIMATES CAN DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY -- THOSE BASED ON EXPENDITURE DATA SHOW NO GDP GROWTH IN 1977 WHILE THOSE BASED ON OUTPUT DATA SHOW 1.5 PERCENT GROWTH. PRELIMINARY DATA ON CONSUMER EXPENDITURE (PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH) HOWEVER LEND SOME SUPPORT TO FIRST QUARTER PICK UP IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (BASED ON OUTPUT DATA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, 1970 EQUALS 100) 1977I 110.6 1977III 110.6 1977IV 110.8 1978I (PROVISIONAL) 112.1

17/01 (TRO VISIONALE) 112.1

5. UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN EDGING DOWNWARD FOR EIGHT MONTHS, FELL SHARPLY IN THE MONTH TO MID-MAY. THE SEASONALLY UNADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL FOR ALL OF THE U.K. (INCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS) FELL 64,948 TO ABOUT 1,387,000 OR FROM 6.1 TO 5.8 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED ADULTS FELL 20,700 (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) TO ABOUT 1,307,000 OR FROM 5.8 TO 5.7 PERCENT OF THE ADULT LABOR FORCE. SIMULTANEOUSLY,

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-----104263 242058Z /46

PR 241725Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6464

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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THE LEVEL OF VACANCIES (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) ROSE 6,200

TO 209,000, THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN $\,$ TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS.

6. STERLING HAD A FAIRLY QUIET WEEK, GENERALLY FIRM ON GOOD TWO-WAY BUSINESS. THE STRONG TRADE FIGURES HELPED OFFSET THE POOR MONEY SUPPLY DATA. LONGER TERM, DEALERS ARE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT IMPORT PENETRATION, WHAT FOLLOWS THE TERMINATION OF PHASE THREE OF INCOMES POLICY, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CONTROL MONEY UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPLY GROWTH WITHOUT UNDUE PRESSURE ON THE GILT MARKET.

TWO BANKS CITED INCREASED RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN BANK ACTIVITY IN DOLLARS. ONE SAID SIGNIFICANT RUSSIAN PURCHASES HAD HELPED TO STRENGTHEN THE DOLLAR ON MONDAY. ANOTHER REPORTED A RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN BANK OPERATING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MARKET IN SIZEABLE (OVER \$25 MILLION) DOLLAR/STERLING DEALS.

WITH MARKETS CLOSED NEXT MONDAY, AND A MAJOR FOREX TRADERS CONFERENCE IN MUNICH, SOME DEALERS EXPECT THIN AND POSSIBLY VOLATIVE MARKETS NEXT WEEK.

7. A 2.5 PERCENT INCREASE IN (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) STERLING M3 IN APRIL, AND REVISIONS IN THE MONEY SUPPLY STATISTICS (REPORTED LAST WEEK IN LONDON 7808) PUT THE GROWTH OF THE CLOSELY WATCHED MONETARY AGGREGATE OVER 16 PERCENT FOR THE BANKING YEAR ENDED APRIL 19. THIS IS WELL IN EXCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S 9-13 PERCENT TARGET. M1 INCREASED 1.5 PERCENT OVER THE LAST BANKING MONTH TO GIVE A 23.1 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE PRECEEDING 12 MONTHS. THE MOST STRIKING INCREASE IN APRIL IS THE PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT NET OF PURCHASES OF PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. SALES OF NEW GILT ISSUES HAVE BEEN SLACK OVER THE RECENT PAST AND THE BANK OF ENGLAND HAS HINTED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN LATE SPENDING BY SOME GOVERN-MENT DEPARTMENTS WHO WERE BELOW THEIR BUDGET LEVELS. THE BANK OF ENGLAND STATED THAT THE LARGE PSBR INCREASE IN APRIL "WHICH CANNOT YET BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE NORMAL SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT, MAY HAVE AMOUNTED TO AS MUCH AS 1 PERCENT OF STERLING M3". THIS, THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION, HELPED PUSH DOMESTIC CREDIT UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPANSION TO 1,428 MILLION POUNDS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT THE DE FACTO 1977/78 GROWTH OF M3 WILL NOT AFFECT THE TARGET LEVEL OF 8-12 PERCENT FOR 1978/79 ANNOUNCED IN CHANCELLOR HEALEY'S APRIL BUDGET. IN FACT, DENZIL DAVIES, MINISTER OF STATE AT HM TREASURY IS WIDELY QUOTED TO HAVE STATED THAT LAST YEAR'S EXCESS GROWTH "MAY HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE DIRECT EFFECT ON THE REAL ECONOMY OR ON INFLATION".

THE LARGE MONETARY AGGREGATES ARE NOW GIVEN THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:

> (IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

APR 20, '77 MAR 15, '78 AOR 19, '78

19,200 40,330 44,530

STERLING M3 23,280 45,660 49,670

M3 23,630 46,790 51,420

THE BANK OF ENGLAND ACCOUNTS FOR THE RECENT GROWTH IN THE MONEY STOCK BY

IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

MARCH 15 APRIL 19

PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT

NET OF SALES OF PUBLIC DEBT TO

THE NON-BANK PUBLIC - 181 1,044

STERLING LENDING TO THE PRIVATE

SECTOR 573 259

BANK LENDING IN STERLING OVERSEAS 206 125

598 1,428

DECREASE IN EXTERNAL AND FOREIGN

CURRENCY FINANCE 6 - 454

NON-DEPOSIT LIABILITIES - 291 163 CHANGE IN STERLING M3 313 1,137

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8. YIELDS IN THE GOVERNMENT SECURITIES MARKET TENDED UP DURING THE WEEK, ALTHOUGH THE MARKET WAS GENERALLY QUIET. THE MONEY SUPPLY FIGURES WERE CONSIDERED BY

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /153 W

-----104272 242056Z /46

P R 241725Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6465
TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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MARKET SOURCES TO BE AWFUL, BUT NOT TO HAVE AFFECTED THE MARKET APPRECIABLY DUE TO THE HEAVY OVERHANG OF INSTITUTIONAL LIQUIDITY. THE GOVERNMENT BROKER DROPPED THE PRICE ON THE LONG TAP STOCK, THE 12 PERCENT EXCHEQUER 1998, AND SOLD AROUND 100 MILLION POUNDS BEFORE THE MARKET DRIED UP. AS IN PREVIOUS WEEKS, MARKET SOURCES INDICATE THAT SHORT-TERM INTEREST RATES ARE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO KEEP INSTITUTIONS FROM FEELING TOO UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THEIR LIQUID POSITIONS.

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THE MONEY SUPPLY FIGURES DID PRODUCE RUMOURS THAT THE CORSET WOULD BE REIMPOSED SHORTLY. MARKET SOURCES HAVE POINTED TO THIS POSSIBILITY AS PRODUCING A "TWO-TIERED MARKET" NOW AND AGAIN IN THE MONEY MARKET AS BANKS TRIED TO POSITION THEMSELVES. ON THURSDAY,

CALL MONEY TO THE DISCOUNT HOUSES WAS YIELDING 2 PERCENT WHILE OVERNIGHT MONEY IN THE INTERBANK MARKET WAS YIELDING 20 PERCENT. INTERBANK LOANS ARE DEDUCTED IN COMPUTING A BANK'S ELIGIBLE LIABILITY POSITION.

EXCHANGE RATE

	EXCHANGE	(DEC.	1971	GOLD
DATE	RATE (\$)	EQUA	ALS 100)	(\$)
5/17	1.8135	61.5	177-3/8	3
5/18	1.8175	61.6	177-5/8	3
5/19	1.8070	61.5	178-5/8	3
5/22	1.8135	61.6	179-3/8	3
5/23	1.8105	61.6	181-1/8	3
arr	- /4 /00 TID 0			NOED

CHANGE 5/16-5/23 UP 0.0005 UNCHANGED UP 5-3/4

FORWARD PREMIUM ON STERLING

DATE	1 MC	NTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
5/17	- 0.50	- 1.38	- 2.75	
5/18	- 0.45	- 1.35	- 2.72	
5/19	- 0.45	- 1.42	- 2.83	
5/22	- 0.48	- 1.40	- 2.80	
5/23	- 0.48	- 1.37	- 2.92	

CHANGE 5/16-5/23 UNCHANGED UNCHANGED DOWN 0.02 (ALL FIGURES IN CENTS)

EURODOLLAR INTEREST RATES

DATE 1 MONTH 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS

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5/17	7-1/8	7-3/4	8-1/8	
5/18	7-5/8	7-11/16	8-1/4	
5/19	8	7-7/8	8-1/4	
5/22	7-5/8	8	8-3/8	
5/23	7-3/4	8-1/8	8-3/8	
CHANGE 5	/16-5/23	UP 1/8	UP 1/8	UP 1/8

THREE-MONTH LONDON INTERBANK - EURODOLLAR INTEREST RATE DIFFERENTIAL

DATE		
5/17	1-19/32	9-11/32
5/18	1-19/32	9-9/32
5/19	1-1/2	9-3/8
5/22	1-5/8	9-5/8
5/23	1-25/32	9-29/32
CHANGE 5/16-5/23		UP 9/16

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /153 W

-----104259 242055Z /46

PR 241725Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6466

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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STERLING CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

DATE	L MOI	NTH 3 I	MONTHS	6 MONTHS
5/17	8-27/37	9-3/32	9-5/16	
5/18	8-25/32	9-1/8	9-11/32	
5/19	8-3/4	9-5/16	9-11/16	
5/22	8-15/16	9-5/16	10	
5/23	8-29/32	9-21/32	9-31/32	
CHANGE 5/	/16-5/23 U	JP 1/16	UP 21/32	UP 9/16

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INTERPOLATED REDEMPTION YIELDS OF HIGH COUPON

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

DATE	5 YE	ARS	15 YEARS	25 YEARS
5/17	11.23	12.5	8 13.01	
5/18	11.25	12.6	0 13.04	
5/19	11.42	12.7	3 13.15	
5/22	11.54	12.7	7 13.21	
5/23	11.47	12.7	2 13.15	
CHANGE 5	/16-5/23	UP 0.28	3 UP 0.15	UP 0.15

THE MINIMUM LENDING RATE REMAINED 8 PERCENT AFTER FRIDAY'S TREASURY BILL AUCTION. AT THE AUCTION, THE AVERAGE TREASURY BILL RATE FELL 0.0107 PERCENT TO 8.4524 PERCENT, AS THE 350 MILLION POUNDS IN BILLS TENDERED ATTRACTED 886.87 MILLION POUNDS IN BIDS. THIS WEEK 500 MILLION POUNDS IN BILLS WILL BE OFFERED AS 300 MILLION MATURE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Subject: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS FOR PERIOD MAY 18-24 SUMMARY: THE TWELVE-MONTH INCREASE IN RETAIL PRICES

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To: STATE TRSY Type: TE

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released **US Department of State** EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014